

R1 Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

September 15, 2015 – 6:00 pm

FWP HQ Kalispell

FWP Staff: Comm. Gary Wolfe, Jim Williams, John Fraley, Alan Wood, Dave Landstrom, Mark Deleray, Lee Anderson, Kristy Personett

CAC Members: Mike Robertson, Mike Corkish, Kari Gabriel, Chancy Jeschke, Daniel Short, Leo Marnell, Jay Sheffield, Larry Lack, Charles Abell; Dan Short attended the subcommittee meeting

CAC Alumni: Tony Anderson, Mike Shepard

Public: Jim Vashro

Jim Williams:

- congratulations to John Fraley and Jerry Howard for their award involving FWOB
- shared results from 15+F listening sessions

John Fraley:

- asked Mike Corkish, Chuck Hunt and Kari Gabriel if they'd continue on CAC thru June 2016
- gave overview of Apprentice Hunter program
 - Commissioner Wolfe provided the Commissions position and thoughts on the program; limited by Statue, wants to change law to require hunter education for the mentor
 - Lee Anderson talked about the numerous nuances to the law, including USFWS and CSKT not allowing 10, & some 11 year olds to hunt
 - Kristy Personett updated the group on approximate numbers of apprentice certificates issued per day in Kalispell

Alan Wood:

- bear problems, lots of them
- Tim Their has Whitetail deer with disease (most likely EHD) by Eureka; approximately 20 of them
- radio collared lion; handout on movements
- season setting process; shoulder season is contentious

Commissioner Gary Wolfe:

- fire restrictions & game damage hunts have been issues
- proposed changes to game damage rules (Director approved) and proposed shoulder season guidelines (already being discussed by EQC); confusion between the 2 issues because they are going forward at the same time
- concern with bull elk canned trophy hunts and landowners charging
- fishing regulations proposals postponed until November Commission meeting
- Jim Williams noted, per Ken McDonald, regarding the shoulder season; if we don't do something the Legislature will

Mark Deleray:

- fisheries sub-committee
 - handout with answers to the question Mark sent; issues include having guides to fishing (John Fraley is working on some now), public perception problems, illegal introductions, warm water fishing opportunities
 - process going forward is refining our message and outreach
- River's Edge Park in Columbia Falls; met to discuss family fishing pond opportunity. Mike Shepard said Columbia Falls is excited about the potential

Dave Landstrom:

- Thompson Falls State Park family fishing pond improvements funded by Avista
- 2015 has been a banner year for visitation; 9% above 2014

- Decision Notice on secondary boat slips at Logan, add electric
- completion of Ranger Station at Wayfarers approximately 1 week
- Wildhorse Island dock; Amy is starting the process, may be an EA. Dock could be similar to a private marina's "floating" dock in Rexford.

Round Table:

Jay Sheffield:

- fires!
- shooting range expansion; working with Forest Service. May receive 5 acres.

Charles Abell:

- concerned about paddlers, dangers to power boats after sunset; should require paddlers to be within 300' of shore at sunset. Lee said paddlers need to carry a navigational light.
- grouse in Eastern MT smaller; should separate season (start later) for them
- low water concern

Leo Marnell:

- fires/smoke
- coffee shop talk; perception is need for reduction of antlerless whitetail. Is there a proposed change in regulation?

Mike Robertson:

- most comments he hears are about managing warm water species; he is funneling these through the fish sub-committee

Chance Jeschke:

- likes apprentice packet
- illegal introductions in sub-committee; need to get past it
- Parks and FAS attendants' kudos, good job on building/expanding
- dock donations by Walleyes Unlimited; Blanchard/Horseshoe, Island?
- Kokanee reproduction in Lake Kooicanusa?
- conducted a perch tournament last Saturday with 21 teams at Lake Mary Ronan

Chuck Hunt:

- commend Jim Vashro for President of Flathead Wildlife; doing a great job!
- FWI last meeting had poor attendance; get involved, protect what you love
- work party on Shady Lane bench project
- Church Slough access
- MT Wildlife Federation topics: shoulder seasons, game damage, landowner incentives

Kari Gabriel:

- numbers of birds admitted thru Wild Wings = raptors 53, non-raptors 94. Most birds are vehicle injuries. Released 51, 15 died, 10 were euthanized, 5 are being rehabilitated.
- held 102 education programs. Raptor Day was a big success.

Larry Lack:

- Bruce' counts not seen by hunters; bowhunters seeing big bulls
- bears in town due to lack of berries etc.; how will hibernation go?
- shoulder seasons; doesn't really affect R1, but need to address before legislature does
- habitats damaged; effects of are bad, need to get overpopulation under control

Mike Corkish:

- apprentice hunter is a big topic; hearing both sides of the spectrum. Will separate 10 year olds in hunter ed class. He has fewer students registered this year. Need instructors.
- Block Management Area closures due to fire restrictions; is that posted? *Yes, through the BMA site.*
- Mule Deer Foundation is growing in Kalispell. Dollars earned locally can be used locally (choose where it goes).

Mike Shepard:

- bowhunting; electronics drew line in the sand. Traditional bowhunters are forming a political group; want to fight lighted nocks.

Jim Vashro:

- Casting for Recovery MT chapter met at West Glacier
- Glacier High outdoor class tying flies; very cool!
- R1 hunter ed safety vests; Flathead Wildlife Inc acted as the vehicle to receive Round Up for Safety dollars.
- Kids hunting newspaper ads; should start again.

Next CAC meeting – Tuesday, December 1st